

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

Entry of this amendment after final action is in order because it reduces the number of claims, introduces no new issues, and simplifies the case for appeal. Seven claims have been canceled and the remaining claims have not been amended.

The examiner fails to take into account the express language of every independent claim in the case describing the filiform element as being "solid."

It is well known to persons skilled in the art and who know about "filiform elements" such as cables, ropes, wires, or yarns that such elements are divided into two basic groups: stranded and solid. A stranded element has a plurality of parallel strands that together form the element, and a solid one has a single one-piece strand that forms the element.

Below is the definition from the on-line Farley dictionary (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com>) for solid:

- 1a. Of definite shape and volume; not liquid or gaseous.
- 1b. Firm or compact in substance.
2. Not hollowed out: a solid block of wood.

3. Being the same substance or color throughout: solid gold.
4. Mathematics Of or relating to three-dimensional geometric figures or bodies.
5. Having no gaps or breaks; continuous: a solid line of people.
6. Of good quality and substance: a solid foundation.
7. Substantial; hearty: a solid meal.
8. Sound; reliable: solid facts.
9. Financially sound.
10. Upstanding and dependable: a solid citizen.
11. Written without a hyphen or space. For example, the word software is a solid compound.
12. Printing Having no leads between the lines.
13. Acting together; unanimous: a solid voting bloc.
14. Slang Excellent; first-rate.

It is clear from the above, especially when read in combination with the disclosure of this invention that shows a uniform uninterrupted cross-section of the "solid" element, that this term is meaningful and clear.

The term "solid" does not even appear to be acknowledged by the examiner, implying that perhaps this term was not considered in the rejection.

The two main references cited against this case, US 7,137,617 of Sjostedt and 5,136,755 of Shaw clearly show stranded filiform elements. FIGS. 1 and 4 of Shaw and FIG. 3 of Sjostedt make this clear. The examiner's statement that Sjostedt shows "a

single composite round strand 204" is wrong; FIG. 13 clearly shows that this element 204 is stranded.

The rejection must therefore be withdrawn and the claims allowed over the cited art. There is absolutely no showing of a "solid" filiform element in the cited art.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

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Enclosure: None.